SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the discussion on the Special Economic Zones is also very important.

श्री सभापति : आप की राय ले रहे हैं, क्या करना है?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: दोनों important हैं। It will be over within half-an-hour.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER - Contd.

Factual position on carrying of Arab TV Channels

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): In order to strengthen the mechanism of regulation over the content of television channels, which are being transmitted/ re-transmitted through cable networks / DTH in India, for public viewing, the Government has notified Downlinking Guidelines on 11th November, 2005.

All private TV channels, which are beamed into India, and are being transmitted/ re-transmitted through cable networks / DTH in India, for public viewing, have to get themselves registered under the said Guidelines. To facilitate smooth implementation, six months time (upto 10th May, 2006) was provided to all TV channels to comply with the provisions of the Downlinking Guidelines and get themselves registered.

Further, *vide* notification dated 11th May, 2006, the Government allowed the channels which were uplinked from abroad and had made an application for registration to the Central Government upto 11th May, 2006, for a period of six months, *i.e.*, upto November, 2006 or till such registration has been granted or refused.

The private TV channels, which were uplinking from India, in accordance with the permission for uplinking granted before 2nd December, 2005, were treated as "registered" television channels under the Downlinking Guidelines.

It has been brought to the notice of Ministry that some small section of media has reported that India has "banned" Arab TV channels under pressure from Israel. The Government of India denies this vehemently as it is contrary to facts. No channel in particular has been "banned" recently by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of

India. This is a malicious and baseless accusation against the Government by interested quarters.

UPA Government reiterates that the Arab TV channels like Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabia, Q TV have not yet applied to be downlinked in India till date. Hence they cannot be transmitted / re-transmitted through cable networks / DTH in India, for public viewing. However, they are still free to apply afresh for registration under the Downlinking Guidelines, if they so desire and they will have similar opportunities like others.

The Policy Guidelines for Downlinking issued on 11th November, 2005, a list of 65 Channels uplinked from abroad, who had applied upto 10th May, 2006 and permitted to continue beaming *vide* notification issued on 11th May, 2006 and other related documents are available on Ministry's website: *www.mib.nic.in*.

A press release clarifying the above status has been issued on 7.8.2006 by the Ministry on which reports have been carried by newspapers, both within and outside the country. Ministry of External Affairs has also sent a detailed Fax message dated 7.8.2006 to all missions in the Gulf and WANA regions to rebut the malicious and false information carried by the paper

---

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Points arising out of the Answer given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th July, 2006 to Starred Question No.44 regarding "Special Economic Zones"

श्री सभापति : श्री रामदास अग्रवाल।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): माननीय सभापति जी, मेरे प्रश्न संख्या 44, दिनांक 26 जुलाई, 2006 को इस विषय पर जो उत्तर दिया गया था, उसके बाद यह प्रश्न खड़ा हुआ कि इस पर हाफ् एन ऑवर चर्चा की जाए। उसके लिए आपने अनुमति दी, आपका धन्यवाद।

महोदय, हम सब जानते हैं कि निर्यात संवर्द्धन एवं प्रोत्साहन के लिए सरकारें समय-समय पर अनेक प्रकार की सहूलियतें, फैसिलिटीज़, करों से छूट और अन्य आकर्षण प्रदान करती है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप निर्यात बढ़े और उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहन मिले। श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की सरकार के समय एक्सपोर्ट प्रोसेसिंग जोन्स, ई0ओ0ईज़0 के क्षेत्र में बढ़ाते हुए, आर्थिक प्रगति को द्रुत गति प्रदान करने के लिए तथा उसे और सक्षम बनाने के लिए एस0ई0जेड्स0 की पॉलिसी का निर्णय किया गया था ...**(व्यवधान)**...